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REMARKS

Claims 2-7 and 9-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 2-6, 9-13, 15 and 18, and CANCEL claims 1 and 8.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8-14 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have amended the recitations in original claim 8 (which have been included in allowable claim 13) and have amended claim 9 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-3 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Young (U.S. 2,440,709). In addition, claims 1-3, 8-11 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Luff (U.S. 6,456,168). And claims 4, 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young or Luff in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. 5,306,948).

Applicants have amended allowable claims 6 and 13 to be in independent form including all of the features of claims 1 and 8, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 13 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 13 are allowable. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-12 and 14-20 are allowable upon claims 6 and 13, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 6 and 13 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a TWO-month extension of time, extending to June 3, 2003, the period for response to the Office

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Action dated January 3, 2003.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 2, 2003


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